

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

P.O. Box 2604
Washington, D.C. 20013

MHQ 6080/86
16 July 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted]
Chief, Tel Aviv Bureau

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FROM: [redacted]
Acting Chief, Monitoring Operations Division

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SUBJECT: Reception Reports on Tehran Radio

Dear [redacted]

STAT

1. Tel Aviv's responses to MOD's 22 April request for a 2-week reception check of Tehran Domestic Service in Persian reveal some mistakes that [redacted] and possibly others in the bureau might be able to learn from. It appears that Hank reported either what he expected to hear or the frequency something was supposed to be on instead of the actual frequency or what it was actually carrying.

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2. During the Bureau Chiefs Conference we discussed MOD's interest in helping Hank develop his abilities with whatever help we and you at the bureau could provide for him. That still goes. This is something for him to learn from. I'm not sure any reasonable amount of scrutiny by staffers could have caught the kind of errors cited above initially. In a few instances, however, a question or two by whoever was editing Hank's report might have helped to confirm whether he really meant what he seemed to be saying or whether he was really sure of a particular point.

3. The most important thing revealed in the attached messages is that nobody at the bureau corrected the original errors when later messages made them evident. We're not sure whether that's because nobody recognized that there were important conflicts between Tel Aviv's reports and those of Nicosia or because it was not recognized that these required correction. Our view is that the discrepancies were important enough to be corrected.

4. Here is the chronology of Tel Aviv's responses and related responses from Nicosia and MOD (copies of all messages attached):

TA792 of 25 April gave an interim response on frequencies at 15084, 11825, and 11790 kHz.

TA799 of 9 May reported on these frequencies 27-29 April and 1-8 May.

NC418 of 9 May noted that at the beginning of May 11825 kHz had moved to 11940 kHz and 11790 kHz had moved to 11895 kHz.

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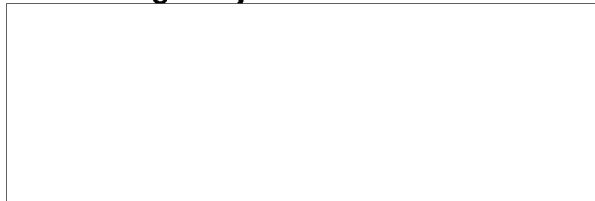
Tel Aviv's admin of 9 May made no mention of the changes in frequencies, and the bureau also failed to follow up on this matter after Nicosia reported them. Furthermore, Tel Aviv reported that the frequencies it checked were broadcasting in parallel in Persian during the whole period even though Nicosia reported that the frequencies were not in parallel and were broadcasting in Persian, English, Bengali, Arabic, and Urdu.

NC425 of 14 May basically confirmed Nicosia's original report, noting a couple of minor changes.

Two days later, on 16 May, TA801 finally noted the changes in frequencies but still reported that the frequencies were operating in parallel 1030-1400 GMT and were broadcasting in Persian.

5. I hope that these notes will help you review what happened and find ways to improve procedures and avoid these kinds of problems. Your recent followup on Tehran Arabic (noting that reception was not as good as originally reported) seems like a sign that you have already taken steps in the right direction.

Best regards,



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cc: C/OPs

attachments: As stated